

Serial No.: 10/765,873
Amendment dated Sept. 15, 2005
Reply to Office Action of June 21, 2005
Our Docket No.: 102-1007

REMARKS

Introduction

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 1-33 and 37 are allowed and that claim 36 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-38 are pending in the application. Claims 8, 13, 25, 28, 34, 35, 37, and 38 are amended. The title and the specification are also amended. No new matter is being presented. In view of the following remarks, reconsideration and allowance of all the pending claims are requested.

Title of Invention

The title has been amended to "MOVABLE PROCESS CARTRIDGE USABLE IN A ONE-PROPERTY CONTACT DEVELOPING PROCESS AND AN IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS EMPLOYING THE SAME" to more clearly indicate the invention to which the claims are directed.

Specification and Drawings

The Examiner has objected to the specification because the reference number "150" on page 12, line 6 (i.e., at paragraph [0047]) should be changed to "100." Applicant has amended this portion of the specification according to the Examiner's recommendation. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the objection.

The Examiner has also objected to the drawings as not illustrating reference number "150." Since Applicant has amended the reference number "150" to "100," Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner also withdraw the objection to the drawings.

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Objections to the Claims

Claims 13 and 38 have been objected to because of informalities. Claims 13 and 38 have been amended according to the Examiner's recommendations. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the objection to these claims.

Rejection under 35 USC §102

Claims 34, 35, and 38 are rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Sakao et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,851,873 (Sakao et al.). This rejection is respectfully traversed for at least the reasons stated below.

Claim 34

Independent claim 34 has been amended to recite, among other things, "a press unit including at least two elastic members disposed at different locations along a length of the toner cartridge and at different distances from a rotational axis of the developing roller."

Regarding the Office Action, the Examiner alleges that: "Sakao et al. (...873) disclose...a press unit moving the developing roller of the toner cartridge with respect to the support member toward the photoconductive drum when the toner cartridge is mounted in the main body (col. 13, lines 15-36)." See Office Action of June 21, 2005, page 3, item 7. Thus, the Examiner appears to equate the pressing blocks 216 illustrated in FIGS. 3 and 7A of Sakao et al. with the press unit recited in Applicant's claim. Applicant respectfully submits that the pressing blocks 216 of Sakao et al. are not the same as the press unit as recited in independent claim 34, as amended. Moreover, Sakao et al. does not disclose "a press unit including at least two elastic members disposed at different locations along a length of the toner cartridge and at different distances from a rotational axis of the developing roller," as recited in independent claim 34 of Applicant's invention.

Sakao et al. discloses a developing device in which a developing section pivots between an operating position (illustrated by two-dot chain lines in FIG. 1 of Sakao et al.) and a non-

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operating position (illustrated by solid lines in FIG. 1 of Sakao et al.). See Sakao et al. col. 2, lines 43-45. Pressing members 206 are pivoted in the direction of the arrows 254 along a support plate 126 by biasing coil springs 220. See Sakao et al. col. 13, lines 15-17 and FIGS. 3 and 7A. Consequently, as shown in FIG. 7A, the pressing block 216 including a pressing arm portion 214 of each pressing member 206 applies a force on an upper surface of the right end portion of the developing section 4 as viewed in FIG. 1. See Sakao et al. col. 13, lines 17-22 and FIGS. 2, 3, and 7A. However, as illustrated in FIG. 3, both of the pressing blocks 216 of Sakao et al. are disposed along the support plate 126, which extends away from a rotational axis of the developing roller 18. Thus, Sakao et al. discloses that both of the pressing blocks 216 are disposed at the same location along a length of the developing section 4. See Sakao et al., FIGS. 2 and 3. Applicant respectfully submits that since both the pressing units 216 of Sakao et al. are disposed at the same location along the length of the developing roller 18 disposed in the developing section 4, Sakao et al. does not disclose, among other things, "a press unit including at least two elastic members disposed at different locations along a length of the toner cartridge," as recited in independent claim 34.

"A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found either expressly or inherently described in a single prior art reference." Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). "The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as contained in the... claim." Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co., 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 USPQ 2d 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989). "The elements must be arranged as required by the claim..." In re Bond, 910 F.2d 831, 15 USPQ2d 1566 (Fed. Cir. 1990). Accordingly, since Sakao et al. does not disclose every element as recited in independent claim 34, Sakao et al. can not be properly used to reject claim 34. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 34 is allowable over Sakao et al., and withdrawal of this rejection and allowance of this claim is earnestly solicited.

Claim 35

Independent claim 35 has been amended to recite, among other things, "a pressing unit disposed between the toner cartridge and the main body at a rear side of the toner cartridge

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...including at least one recess ... and at least one elastic member disposed in the at least one recess."

As set forth above, the Examiner, in the Office Action, appears to equate the pressing blocks 216 illustrated in FIGS. 3 and 7A of Sakao et al. with Applicant's pressing unit. Applicant respectfully submits that the pressing blocks 216 of Sakao et al. are not the same as the pressing unit as recited in independent claim 35, as amended. Moreover, Sakao et al. does not disclose "a pressing unit disposed between the toner cartridge and the main body at a rear side of the toner cartridge opposite to the photoconductive drum and including at least one recess disposed on the main body and at least one elastic member disposed in the at least one recess to press the toner cartridge toward the photoconductive drum," as recited in independent claim 35 of Applicant's invention.

As discussed above, Sakao et al. discloses a developing device in which a developing section 4 pivots between an operating position (illustrated by two-dot chain lines in FIG. 1 of Sakao et al.) and a non-operating position (illustrated by solid lines in FIG. 1 of Sakao et al.). See Sakao et al. col. 2, lines 43-45. However, as illustrated in FIGS. 3 and 7A, both of the pressing blocks 216 of Sakao et al. are disposed along the support plate 126 that extends away from a rotational axis of the developing roller 18 disposed in the developing section 4. That is, the pressing blocks 216 are disposed in the main body 6 and are spaced apart from (i.e., not adjacent to) the developing section 4. See Sakao et al. FIGS. 2, 3, and 7A. Since both of the pressing blocks 216 are disposed on the supporting plate 126 of the main body 6 of the developing device away from the developing section 4, Sakao et al. does not disclose "a pressing unit disposed between the toner cartridge and the main body." Therefore, Sakao et al. fails to disclose, among other things, "a pressing unit disposed between the toner cartridge and the main body at a rear side of the toner cartridge opposite to the photoconductive drum and including at least one recess disposed on the main body and at least one elastic member disposed in the at least one recess to press the toner cartridge toward the photoconductive drum," as recited in independent claim 35.

Furthermore, Sakao et al. discloses that the pressing blocks 216 include pressing members 206 that are pivoted in the direction of the arrows 254 by the biasing coil springs 220.

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See Sakao et al. col. 13, lines 15-17 and FIG. 7A. Consequently, as shown in FIG. 7A, the pressing block 216 including a pressing arm portion 214 of each pressing member 206 provides a force on an upper surface of the right end portion of the developing section 4 as viewed in FIG. 1. See Sakao et al. col. 13, lines 17-22 and FIG. 7A. The pressing blocks 216 disclosed in Sakao et al. consist of the pressing member 206 that is pivoted with respect to the pressing arm portion 214 by a force applied by the biasing coil spring 220. Applicant respectfully submits that the coil spring disclosed by Sakao et al. is disposed in the pressing block 216 and is not disposed in "at least one recess disposed on the main body." Thus, it is respectfully submitted that Sakao et al. does not disclose, among other things, "a pressing unit... including at least one recess disposed on the main body and at least one elastic member disposed in the at least one recess to press the toner cartridge toward the photoconductive drum," as recited in independent claim 35 of Applicant's invention.

Accordingly, since Sakao et al. does not disclose every element as recited in independent claim 35, Sakao et al. can not be properly used to reject claim 35. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 35 is allowable over Sakao et al., and withdrawal of this rejection and allowance of this claim is earnestly solicited.

Claim 38

Independent claim 38 has been amended to recite, among other things, "a guide unit ... including at least one pair of an elongated guide hole and a corresponding guide shaft disposed on an end of the toner cartridge."

As described above, Sakao et al. discloses a developing device in which a developing section 4 pivots between an operating position (illustrated by two-dot chain lines in FIG. 1 of Sakao et al.) and a non-operating position (illustrated by solid lines in FIG. 1 of Sakao et al.). See Sakao et al. col. 2, lines 43-45. The developing device includes a position means 204 mounted on the supporting plate 126 of the main body 6 of the developing device including a pair of supporting screws 230 spaced from each other along the main body 6, which are threadedly secured to the supporting plate 126, and a pair of elongated holes 234 formed to correspond to the supporting screws 230 to be movable therein. See Sakao et al. col. 12, lines

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13-35 and FIGS. 3 and 7A. However, the supporting screws 230 disclosed by Sakao et al. are disposed in the supporting plate 126 of the main body 6 and are not disposed on the developing section 4 of the developing device. Since the supporting screws are not disposed on the developing section 4, Sakao et al. does not disclose, among other things, "a guide unit ... including...a corresponding guide shaft disposed on... the toner cartridge," as recited in independent claim 38 of Applicant's invention.

Furthermore, the supporting screws 230 in Sakao et al. are positioned on the support plate 126 on a rear side of the developing section 4 of the developing device and are not positioned on "an end of the toner cartridge," as recited in independent claim 38. See Sakao et al. FIGS. 2, 3, and 7A. Thus, Sakao et al. also does not disclose "a guide unit ... including a corresponding guide shaft disposed on an end of the toner cartridge," as recited in independent claim 38 of Applicant's invention.

Accordingly, since Sakao et al. does not disclose every element as recited in independent claim 38, Sakao et al. can not be properly used to reject claim 38. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 38 is allowable over Sakao et al., and withdrawal of this rejection and allowance of this claim is earnestly solicited.

Allowed Claims

Claims 1-33 and 37 have been allowed.

Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, there being no other objections or rejections, this application is in condition for allowance, and a notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

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If any further fees are required in connection with the filing of this amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 502827.

Respectfully submitted,

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